8th September 1928]

(b) One of the conditions of the transfer of the institutions to the Government was that out of the savings resulting from such transfer, the local boards should agree to open and maintain within their areas one or more additional regular or rural *allopathic* dispensaries. If any local body prefers to utilize the savings in opening ayurvedic dispensaries, the Government will be prepared to consider such proposals.

Leper asylums in the Presidency.

* 300 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what steps Government or non-official bodies have taken to ascertain the extent to which leprosy prevails in the Madras Presidency other than that indicated in the Census reports;

(b) the number, names of settlements, asylums and hospitals for treatment established by Government or private agencies, aided or not aided by Government, and the number of lepers treated as in-patients or out-patients in each and with what success; and

(c) what steps have been taken by this Government to propose to the Government of India or by the Government of India themselves to amend the Indian Lepers Act to meet the modern scientific view of leprosy and the treatment required?

A.—(a) Recent investigations show that leprosy is infectious only in the initial stage. The spread of the disease is due to the very large number of persons in the early stages of the disease, when it is difficult for any but skilled medical officers to detect infection, who are allowed to carry on their normal avocations. This prevents any accurate estimate of the extent to which leprosy prevails in the Presidency being attempted by Government. No information is available as to the steps taken by non-official bodies in this direction.

(b) A statement [a] giving the information relating to the patients treated in 1927 so far as information is available is furnished.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 1595 given on 27th February 1928.

Tours

Tours by the hon. Minister for Public Health.

* 301 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of tours undertaken by him since the 31st March last up to date;

(b) the districts visited by him;

(c) the nature and extent of the official work done by him during those tours;

(d) whether he did any party or propaganda work during those tours;

(e) whether he paid from his pocket for the expenses of any of these tours; and

(f) if not, why not?

---

a Printed as Appendix V on page 579 infra.